REMARKS

Claims 1-27 stand rejected. Claims 12 and 20 were canceled. Claim 1-11, 13-19, and 21-27 remain in the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 12 and 21 were objected to under 35 USC § 112 as being indefinite. In response, Applicants have canceled the claims.

Claim rejections – 35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by Wolfman et al. (SUPA Pub. 2002/0040363). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Regarding the rejection of claim 1, the examiner has indicated that Wolfman et al. teach a method for classification that includes the steps of searching a data structure including an indication that "Wolfman teaches the claimed step of 'providing a link to at least one web page corresponding to the matching key phrases' as the information 26 item may be stored on a web page (Fig. 2, page 2, paragraph 0021)." The examiner went on to opine that "[f]inally, Wolfman teaches the claim step of 'providing a link to at least one node having a relation to at least on key phrase matching the search term whereby the user can browse the lin from the node to find web pages related to the node' as link 28 may be any type of link including an HTML link, a URL link or a path to a directory or file (Fig. 2, page 2, paragraph 0021)."

The Applicant submits that claim 1, as amended, clarifies that the result of the search provides a user with two things: (1) a link to at least one web page corresponding to the matching key phrases; and (2) a link to at least two nodes having a relation to at least one key phrase matching the search term whereby a user can browse the link from the nodes to find web pages related to the nodes. In this way, a user can search on a term, e.g., Lincoln, and get back web pages that match the search term "Lincoln" and also nodes that allow a user to clarify the search, e.g., nodes for Lincoln, Nebraska (the place) and for Lincoln Continentals (the car). Wolman et al. do not teach returning nodes and web pages as claimed by the Applicants.

Regarding independent claim 13, the examiner indicated that "Wolfman teaches the claimed step of 'receiving a plurality of links to nodes related to the search term wherein each node has a relation to a plurality of web pages' as identical links may appear in more than one node 22 and different nodes may contain same keywords." Applicants amended claim clarifies that the claimed invention provides multiple nodes wherein the nodes relate to different concepts of the same search term. In this way, a user is able to clarify an initial search. For example, a search on the term "Lincoln" could indicate that the user intended "Lincoln, Nebraska" or "Lincoln Continental." By returning both nodes, the user is able to select the node more indicative of the original search concept.

Regarding the rejection of independent claims 1-11 and 14-20, Applicants submit that they also define over the art of record at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claims from which they depend.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 22-27 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolfman et al. (SUPA Pub. 2002/0040363) in view of Goerz, JR. et al. (USPA Pub. 2002/0065671).

Regarding independent claims 22, applicants have amended the claim to clarify and recite, in part:

> and wherein at least one other node contains a plurality of web
> sites related to a second concept and a category related to the
> second concept and wherein the nodes are arranged in a
> hierarchical order such that a node having a concept narrower
> than the first concept is lower in the hierarchy and a node
> having a concept broader than the first concepts is higher in the
> hierarchy wherein the first and second concepts are related by a
> search term

Applicants amended claim clarifies that the claimed invention provides multiple nodes wherein the nodes relate to different concepts of the same search term. In this way, a user is able to clarify an initial search. For example, a search on the term "Lincoln" could indicate that the user intended "Lincoln, Nebraska" or "Lincoln Continental." By returning both nodes, the user is able to select the node more indicative of the original search concept.
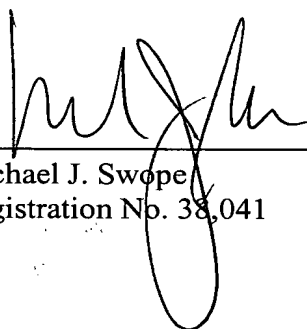
Inasmuch as dependent claims 23-27 depend from claim 22, Applicants submit that they also patentably define over Wolfman et al. in view of Goerz, JR. et al. at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 22.

CONCLUSION

Early consideration and allowance of the above-referenced patent application is respectfully requested.

Date: December 8, 2004

_____
Michael J. Swope
Registration No. 38,041

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439